

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. Claims 1-24 are submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the prior art in their present form, for the reasons set forth hereafter. No new matter is involved.

In paragraph I which begins on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 5-13 and 17-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,677,999 of Hidaka, et al. in view of U.S. Patent 6,115,024 of Hayama. In paragraph II which begins on page 5 of the Office Action, claims 2-4 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hidaka, et al. in view of Hayama, and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,510,992 of Kara. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In relying on Hidaka, et al. as the primary reference in rejecting the claims, the Office Action admits that such reference fails to teach the printing of information block-by-block if the tape width is smaller than a first tape width. Accordingly, in order to supplement this failure of disclosure, the Office Action relies on the secondary reference of Hayama. In referring to Fig. 11 of Hayama, on page 3 of the Office Action, it is stated that "various sized address labels can be printed. One can see that smaller-sized labels have less information than a larger sized label and the information is arranged in various blocks (i.e. m blocks) in different number of lines (i.e., lines of k blocks)." However, what Hayama discloses, as exemplified by claim 1 thereof, is:

"if no text data has been input to any of the predetermined entry items of the designated format, the image display means displays an image representative of part or whole of the object image data created by using dummy data for the text data to be

input to any of the predetermined entry items of the designated format (e.g., col. 2, lines 33-38; last paragraph of claim 1)".

The various items noted with respect to Fig. 11 of Hayama in the Office Action are nothing more than examples of entry items of each fixed format which are to be displayed on the screen. This is substantially different from the features in accordance with the present invention, as set forth in the claims of this application. In claim 1, for example, the last paragraph thereof includes the following recitations:

"grouping, ..., the item images representative of information of the n respective items into m blocks ... based on the address information,
arranging the grouped item images as respective lines of k blocks . . . , and
printing the k blocks on a block-by-block basis, if the detected tape width is a second tape width smaller than the first tape width".

Thus, in a concrete example, each item constituting the address (e.g., postal code, postal address, name and the like) is grouped into blocks and printing is made on a block-by-block basis.

Because of the features in accordance with the present invention, as noted, the advantages described on page 5 of the specification can be realized. This is neither taught nor suggested by Hayama, and the features and advantages of the invention cannot be realized by attempted combination of Hidaka, et al. and Hayama, et al.

Therefore, claim 1 is submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the prior art for the reasons noted above. Similar comments apply to independent

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claims 12, 13 and 24 which contain limitations similar to claim 1. Also, dependent claims 2-11 and 14-23 depend from and contain all of the limitations of one of the independent claims, so that such claims are also submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the art.

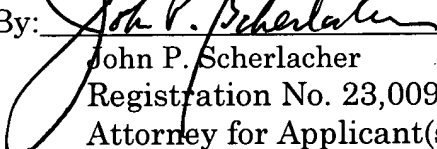
In conclusion, claims 1-24 are submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the art for the reasons discussed above. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6846 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
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